GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:70
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
ACCREDITATION SYSTEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have demanded the delegation of power to them barring those relating to projects of national importance for granting environmental clearance to developmental projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto;

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether there is any proposal to introduce an accreditation system for consultants and experts to prepare environmental management plans; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 70 FOR REPLY ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2004 REGARDING `ACCREDITATION SYSTEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS` BY SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL AND SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA

(a) to (d) The Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of existing environmental clearance process, formulated a proposal for a revised procedure, and held consultations with all the concerned stakeholders, including the State Governments, on the proposed revised procedure. During the meetings with the State Governments, some of the States have suggested more decentralization of powers for granting environmental clearance to the State Governments. Any change in the existing environmental clearance process will be brought forth only after following the due statutory procedure laid down under the relevant Acts/ Rules.

(e)& (f) There is no such proposal with the Government. However, during the discussion with the various stakeholders on the proposed revised environmental clearance procedure, introduction of some kind of accreditation system for the consultants for undertaking environmental impact assessment studies has been suggested. No final view has been taken yet on this suggestion.